

INDIANA SINCLAIR-TIMEX USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

Sample issue July 1986

Welcome to the second issue of the ISTUG, Indiana Sinclair-Timex Users group. This newsletter is primarily to give us a common link for the exchange of ideas on how we can make better use of our TS and ZX computers and have a bit of fun at it, at the same time. Your contributions are welcome and appreciated, so lets hear from you. Our computers are not dead, they are as alive as you are willing to make them! Share that interesting program or routine or tip with the rest of us. Or simply ask questions...it is a great way to learn something.

I have a vendor warning that I feel I must share with the rest of you. It concerns the company called English Micro Connection, of 15 Kilburn Court, Newport, RI 02840. Last December I ordered a program from Bob Dyl, the owner of this company, it was Lords of Midnight. It arrived a few weeks later, but would not load. I tried 3 different tape players, a winky board, a Spectrum, TS2068 with Romswitch, TS2068 with Rainbow interface. Nothing would get it to load! So I called up Bob and he told me no problem, he would send out another the next business day. It never arrived, so a few weeks later I called again. He then told me that he had sent one out, but to the wrong Frank Davis, and would send out another. The story goes on and on with several more long distance calls and promises to send a replacement program. I spent far more than the price of the program with the postal cost of sending back the program plus the cost of the phone calls. The program has never been replaced. While at the Midwest Timex Sinclair Computer Fest I heard this same type of story from other people who had ordered Spectrum programs from English Micro Connection from both users and 2 dealers. Until Bob Dyl makes good on his obligation to me and others he has ripped off he holds a very low place in my estimate of vendors to be trusted. When and if he makes the proper restitution I will gladly let that be known. Meanwhile I am filing a complaint with the United States Postal Service accusing him of mail fraud.

At the next users group meeting I have some programs to give to the group, donated by Chris Borsa of Elkhart, Indiana. He has not made it to any meeting yet but wanted to make a contribution. They are all TS2068 programs and will become part of our user group library. My personal thanks to Chris!

At the next meeting, while I am on the subject, Joe Payne of Rushville, will be demonstrating his Zebra Disc Drive System on his TS2068 and Marvin Herman of Indianapolis, will be demonstrating his TS1000 and peripherals for it, along with bringing in for viewing his complete SYNTAX collection.

The date of the next meeting will be Saturday the 26th of July at 1:30 PM at Willie Jones house at 10126 E. 33RD Street, Indianapolis, In. 46236. For directions give him a call at 317-897-9225, or call me, Frank Davis at 317-473-4885.

There will be one more sample issue sent out next month for all the people on our mailing list. After that point the only issues sent out will be to members and to those non-members willing to pay a nominal fee to cover costs of paper and postage.

TS/ZX BASIC BLOCK DELETE

by Paul Holmgren

Here is a short utility program for the TS1000 and the TS1500, written by Paul Holmgren of Indianapolis. It enables you in basic to be able to block delete. I have not tried this on the ZX81, but assume that it will work on that computer as well.

The line numbers used are as an example only and you may assign any suitable line numbers that will fit your purpose.

```
100 LET S=PEEK 16425 + 256 * PEEK 16426 + 3
150 REM
200 LET I=E - S - 1
250 POKE S, INT (I/256)
300 POKE (S-1), (I-256 * PEEK S)
350 STOP
400 here is where you enter the lines you want to be removed
450 LET E= PEEK 16425 + 256 + PEEK 16426
500 GOTO 100
```

Line 100 is the top of the program, so when you get to line 500 be sure to tell it to GOTO whatever line number you have assigned as the top.

Hope that you TS/ZX users can find this routine of use and that we can talk Paul into sharing more of his programs and routines with us.

MTERM and the Spectrum Emulator

The first thing you must do in order to use MTERM with your ROMSWITCH or Rainbow Plus or Spectrum ROM is to lower the RAMTOP so you need a small loader program.

Write this small program and SAVE it using SAVE "MTERM" LINE 10.

```
10 CLEAR 53950: LOAD "" CODE RANDOMIZE USR 54016
```

Now load your original copy of MTERM and then exit to Basic and enter the following POKES.

```
POKE 54554,207: POKE 54555,255
```

Now save this version of MTERM by entering: SAVE "MTERM" CODE 54016,7721. Save this on the same tape you saved the short one line loader program on earlier. This program will now autorun for you and you will find it useful to erase the small loader program from the program buffer before you attempt to upload or download any material.

Credit for this short public domain procedure goes to Thomas Simons, Rick Conrad, David Hoshen, and to Rick Duncan.

One more word of caution is that you will have 30100 useable bytes in your buffer, not the 30211 that the buffer controls say you have.

For those who are interested let me know if you need any assistance in converting this to run on a ROTRONICS WAFADRIIVE. Write to Frank Davis, care of the users group, at 513 East Main St., Peru, In. 46970.

That is all for now, hope to see some more of you at the next meeting and hope to bring you an even better issue next month.